

LEGISLATIVE LIAISON
84-4921

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Chrono

December 18, 1984

Central Intelligence Agency
Director, Office of External Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of a letter from [redacted]
[redacted] As you will note, this constituent is concerned with
sources of aid and any CIA complicity in funneling funds to the
anti-Sandinistas.

Your comments on this matter may be forwarded to my
Washington, D.C. office, Senate Office Building, Washington,
D.C. 20510. I look forward to your prompt response. PLEASE MARK
THE ENVELOPE TO THE ATTENTION OF: Richard Ellings.

Thank you for your attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



SLADE GORTON
United States Senator

SG:reb
Enclosure

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Say WHAT?

Somebody ought to quit

By Tom Braden
Los Angeles Times Syndicate

WASHINGTON — Congress has cut off funds for the CIA's private army in Nicaragua but the Contras are still fighting on. How? With funding, we are told by a State Department spokesman, from individual Americans and individual American corporations who are contributing a million and a half dollars every month.

That's what the man said. And according to all the newspapers I read, no reporter interrupted him. Nobody said, "Will you say that again?" Nobody said, "What?"

Which proves that reporters like everybody else are subject to Barnum's rule about suckers. Also, that if we believe this, we'll believe anything. I note, for example, a recent poll demonstrating that most Americans say they trust Reagan to keep his promises, one of which — remember? — was to balance the budget by 1982.

But back to the State Department. What we are being told is that American businessmen feel so strongly about fighting the Sandinistas that the moment Congress cut off funds for the Contras, they searched around to find a way to help, established safe and secure conduits, and then dug into their pockets for cash.

Maybe I'm overly suspicious. So let's put it this way. Does this story sound reasonable to you?

Also — and here's another statement which, it seems to me, might have called for a shouted "What?": The government of Israel is sending funds to the Contras, and also the governments of Guatemala, Argentina, Venezuela and Taiwan.

Now, that's odd. Israel is dead broke. We all know that. So is Guatemala. Argentina has been having financial problems as also Venezuela. Is it conceivable that the governments of these countries feel so flush right now that they can afford to bend the budget a bit for an

army in Nicaragua? Do the Taiwanese have a vital interest in Nicaragua?

I cannot prove that the CIA is providing the money to the businessmen and the corporations and is telling them where and how to send the funds. I cannot prove that the CIA station chiefs in Israel, Guatemala, Venezuela, Argentina and Taiwan put the cash in a satchel, walked over to the offices of the finance ministers, and asked them to do the United States a favor.

But I suspect that this is what happened and is happening. I presume that's what happened and is happening, and I think Congress ought to get up on its hind legs and howl about it.

Because Congress voted to cut off funds for the Contras. Congress told the CIA to wind down its operation in Honduras and Nicaragua. You may argue if you wish that it was an unwise thing for the Congress to do. But you can't argue that Congress didn't spend a lot of time in investigation and debate, and then make a decision, or that it is not the constitutional duty of Congress so to do. We can't have two governments, one run according to the Constitution, the other according to Bill Casey.

In the old days at CIA, there was no such problem. In the days of foreign policy consensus, the CIA carried on operations which Congress wished it to carry on, but thought wise to carry on in secret. Regrettably, perhaps, those days are gone. Does that mean that the CIA is no longer subject to law?

Mr. Reagan's conservative friends talk a lot these days about the Monroe Doctrine and how the country has permitted the Soviet Union to violate that sacred pledge. But by dragging Israel and Taiwan into Central America, don't they make a joke out of their complaint? I don't understand how good reporters can be so gullible, or good congressmen, for that matter. I think Bill Casey ought to be hauled up before the Intelligence Committee, placed under oath and asked what

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Sept. 26, 1984

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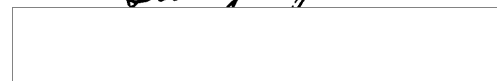
Dear Senator Gorton,

Can you enlighten me on the problem of aid to Nicaragua? I am very concerned as are many other people.

Is the C.I.A. involved?

I should appreciate your reply.

Thank you
Sincerely yours,



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Enclosed is an editorial from the
Broomfield Sun